

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 ACDA-19

MBFR-03 IO-13 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-20 EUR-25 EB-11

RSR-01 /172 W

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P 100030Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

SECDEF PRIORITY

CINCPAC PRIORITY

COMUSKOREA

COMUSPAPAN

S E C R E T TOKYO 8695

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, JA, KS

SUBJECT: THIRD COUNTRY ASSISTANCE

REF: A. TOKYO 7881 DTG 220850Z JUN 73

B. SECDEF 211407Z JUN 73

C. DAO SEOUL IR 6-855-0203-70, 30 NOV 70

D. COMUSK 031052Z

E. CINCPAC 290304Z JUN 73

1. FOLLOWING ARE RESULTS OF MDAO'S INQUIRY INTO NATURE
OF MR-120 RADAR TRANSACTION REPORTED REFS B, C, AND D,
IN RESPONSE EMBASSY REQUEST REF A AND CINCPAC REQUEST
REF E:

A. DURING THE PERIOD 1970-72, 73 RPT 73 MR-120 RADAR
SETS HAVE BEEN SOLD BY THE JAPANESE MANUFACTURER, TOKYO
KEIKI, TO THE SOUTH KOREAN TRADING COMPANY IN SEOUL KNOWN
AS TOICHI KOEKI CO. THIS WAS A STRAIGHT COMMERCIAL DEAL,
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I.E. LETTER OF CREDIT AND CASH IN ADVANCE. AS IN ALL

EXPORT TRANSACTIONS, THIS WAS APPROVED BY MITI. AS FAR AS WE KNOW, THERE WAS NO OTHER GOJ INVOLVEMENT.

B. THE MR-120 IS A JAPANESE-DESIGNED MARINE RADAR. IT IS NOT DESIGNED BY SPERRY, BUT IS MARKETING BY THAT FIRM UNDER "SPERRY MK-12" DESIGNATION, THE LABEL FIXED TO MODELS SENT TO KOREA AT KOREAN IMPORTER'S REQUEST. IN ADDITION TO THOSE SOLD TO KOREA DURING 1970-72 PERIOD, 150 WERE SOLD TO SPERRY (FOR CANADA AND EUROPE), 15 THROUGH TRADING COMPANIES TO SEA NATIONS, AND 24 FOR USE ON SMALL SHIPS BUILT IN JAPAN FOR FOREIGN CUSTOMERS. WE BELIEVE PRICE QUOTED REF D (\$6,327 PER UNIT, OR \$461,871 FOR 73 UNITS) IS ABOUT RIGHT.

2. FOREGOING IS PROBABLY THE ONLY CASE IN WHICH JAPANESE FIRM HAS SOLD ITEM WITH SUCH OBVIOUS MILITARY APPLICATION TO SOUTH KOREA. NO JAPANESE FIRM HAS SOLD ANY LETHAL EQUIPMENT TO KOREA, NOR, AS FAR AS WE KNOW, EVEN ANY OF THE NON-LETHAL MILITARY EQUIPMENT LISTED IN PARA 3 REF D. GOJ OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO REACT NEGATIVELY TO ANY US SUGGESTION THAT JAPAN ASSUME MORE OF THE US MILITARY EQUIPMENT AID PROGRAM TO SOUTH KOREA, A VIEW THAT IS RECIPROCATED BY ROK DEFENSE OFFICIALS ACCORDING TO PARA 2, REF D.

3. ON JULY 9, POLMIL COUNSELOR PROBED FURTHER RESPECTING GOJ ATTITUDES IN MEETING WITH CHIEF FONOFF SECURITY DIVISION MATSUDA. MATSUDA SAID THAT, FOLLOWING DOOLIN PRESENTATION AT LAST SECURITY COMMITTEE MEETING, POSSIBILITY OF GOJ MILITARY AID PROGRAM TO KOREA HAS BEEN DISCUSSED AMONG SEVERAL AGENCIES. MATSUDA SAID THAT THE GENERAL ATMOSPHERE WITHIN GOJ FOR ANY SUCH PROGRAM IS NEGATIVE: DIRECT SUPPLY OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO ROK ARMED FORCES QTE: IS OUT OF QUESTION END QTE. EVEN IF PRODUCTS ARE COMMERCIALY AVAILABLE, IF END USER IS TO BE FOREIGN MILITARY, GOJ CANNOT REPEAT NOT PROVIDE IT. HOWEVER, MATSUDA, RECALLING HIS CONVERSATION WITH DOOLIN, SUGGESTED THE FEASIBILITY OF GOJ PROVIDING FACTORIES AS PART OF GENERAL ECONOMIC AID PROGRAM THAT COULD PRODUCE EQUIPMENT USABLE TO ROK FORCES. INSTEAD OF PROVIDING

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TRUCKS, FOR EXAMPLE, GOJ MIGHT PROVIDE TRUCK FACTORY. SAME COULD BE DONE FOR CERTAIN TYPE OF COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT. MATSUDA CITED AS PRECEDENT FOR THIS SUGGESTION EARLIER JAPANESE PROVISION OF AMMUNITION PLANT TO THE PHILLIPINES FOR SUPPLY OF AMMUNITION TO PHILLIPINE CONSTABULARY. MATSUDA THOUGHT THAT IDEA OF PROVIDING SUCH FACTORIES MIGHT FIND FAVORABLE RECEPTION WITHIN GOJ IF REQUEST WERE MADE BY ROKG AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL.

MATSUDA SAID HE THOUGHT IT EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT
ANY SUCH REQUEST NOT REPEAT NOT COME FROM USG.
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